Powelton Man Denies Charges About Bombs

'The East Powelton Concerned Residents is a group of citizens whose only interest is to stop Drexel's expansion into the community.

'We are not a violent group.'

There is a second version of the recent visit here by Terry A. Caldwell and his family.

This version, told by Kenneth H. Moberg and by a lawyer who said he represents Powelton area groups, is that Caldwell has repudiated his statement to police.

Moberg said that the Caldwells — Terry, his pregnant wife and two small children — came to Pennsylvania from the West Coast to visit his parents in Sunbury.

After the visit, Moberg said, they drove to Philadelphia but had no place to stay. So the Powelton Village Trouble Center obtained rooms for them in the East Powelton Community Center, 3312 Race st.

'Drug Problem'

"But we found they had a problem with drugs," said Moberg.

"They made a great noise about looking for drugs. The Community Center doesn't want that kind of trouble. They left July 10, presumably to go back to the West Coast."

Federal authorities and the police said that Caldwell, a former Colorado miner experienced in the use of explosives, came here from Berkeley, Calif., and that Moberg, a member of the East Powelton Concerned Residents, asked him to teach a "secret class" how to make homemade bombs.

Denial by Moberg

"It's absolutely untrue," said Moberg.

Moberg denied:

— That he ever asked Caldwell to give instructions on the use of explosives.

— That Caldwell ever drew a sketch for him showing how to make a bomb out of an aerosol can.

— Or that the East Powelton Concerned Residents group is planning to bomb Drexel or anybody else.

"The East Powelton Concerned Residents is a group of citizens whose only interest is to stop Drexel's expansion into the community," he said. "We are not a violent group. The closest we ever came to violence was when we put our bodies in front of bulldozers."

The group is working through the courts, he said, and very successfully so. Why, he asked, should it resort to bombs and explosives?

The whole thing, he said, looks like an attempt to frame the EPCR.

Police Statement

"The police apparently wrote out a statement about a conversation he had with me and another person," Moberg said. "Then they told him to sign it and they wouldn't press charges about the gun and the marijuana.

"He signed it under threat of these charges."

Later, he said, he found out about the statement — "we have our sources of information, too" — and went to Caldwell, who had been released. He said Caldwell agreed that his statement was untrue.

"He was never a person to keep things quiet," said Moberg. "He talked openly in public. He told me one night he got drunk and bragged about explosives, but that he was only kidding."

Rizzo Comments

[Police Commissioner Frank L. Rizzo, informed of Moberg's charges that the Caldwell incident was a "frame-up," replied:

["Mr. Caldwell was not a police plant nor was his statement prepared in advance by police, as charged by Moberg. The statement was freely and voluntarily given and signed by Caldwell.]

[The Bulletin, through independent sources who have asked not to be identified, has information which supports the police version of the story.]

Repudiation

David Kairys, 27, a lawyer, called The Bulletin yesterday and said Caldwell had "signed another statement repudiating everything he said to police and explaining why he said it to police."

Kairys, who works for the Defender Association, 1526 Chestnut st., under a fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania, said he represents Powelton groups "in their dispute with Drexel University" over its expansion plans.

Kairys said Caldwell's "other" statement was in the form of a one-page typewritten letter addressed to Kairys.

Kairys said he spoke to Caldwell on the telephone.

"I told Caldwell to write down exactly what happened and send it to me in a letter."

Asked why he did this, Kairys replied:

"I was afraid they (the police) might try to use Caldwell's statement against Moberg."

2d Statement

Kairys said he had not seen the statement Caldwell signed for police.

The Caldwell statement released by Kairys was headed "3312 Race st" — the address of the "liberated" community center. It was dated July 9. It said:

"The police made it clear to me that, if I signed the statement, then they would not prefer charges against me for possession of an unregistered firearm or for possession of the few grams of marijuana which they claimed to have discovered somewhere around the apartment building.

Terry A. Caldwell
. . . The visitor from the West.

Kenneth H. Moberg
. . . The East Powelton figure.

"Had charges been preferred against me, I would have been unable to leave Philadelphia to return to California with my children and my wife, who is pregnant, and this was something I had previously planned to do within the week, as numerous neighbors knew.

Violence Opposed

"To avoid the serious inconvenience to myself and to my family, of extending my stay in Philadelphia under inhospitable circumstances, I signed the statement, and was released after a lie detector test at approximately 1.30 A.M. July 8, 1970.

"I was not given a copy of said statement and I repudiate it."

Moberg said:

"None of us really knew who the Caldwells were. We just took a family in without asking questions.

"It's absurd to think he and I got together with anyone to talk about explosives. I don't like violence. Don't say I'm a member of the New Left. The New Left is a term to cover a combination of many political beliefs.

"My political position is that I do not support the use of violence. That is why I left the Free Press."

Boston Native

Moberg, a native of Boston, is married to the former Zandra J. Lee, of Stroudsburg. They have two children, Rebecca Lee, nine, and Kenneth J. Jr., two.

Moberg was graduated from Hatboro High School in 1952, and attended Lafayette College, Easton, from 1952 to 1954. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in city planning in 1957.

He took an anthropology course for a year at the University of Michigan, and was a psychology major at Temple University from 1962 to 1966. He attended Bryn Mawr College from 1967 to 1969.

Moberg teaches a psychology course to nurses at Montgomery Hospital, Norristown. To supplement his income, he drives a cab in the city.